

AS TO VACCINATION AND SMALLPOX

SUPPLEMENT TO "A VACCINATION CREED"

NOT one of the 346 cases of smallpox discovered in Chicago within the last three years was found vaccinated as defined in the VACCINATION CREED.

Of the total number, 306 never had been vaccinated at all, though most of them claimed that they had. Examination of the arms proved that these attempts at vaccination were failures; there was no scar and the patients finally admitted that the vaccinations when performed did not "take." A "failure" is not a vaccination; therefore, these 306 cases had never been vaccinated.

Of the remaining 40 cases, 26 had old, irregular and doubtful scars said to be the result of vaccination; but these were not characteristic; they were more like the scars from infected sores or wounds than those from vaccine. Nine had fair old scars of vaccinations made from 30 to 40 years previously. Only five had typical (characteristic) scars; but these also were the results of vaccination made many years before and never repeated.

In no single case of the 346 had the terms of the First Article of the VACCINATION CREED been complied with—vaccination had NOT been repeated until it would no longer "take." If it had been they could not have contracted smallpox.

These 346 persons are examples of thousands of others who honestly believe they have been vaccinated, because they have had their arms scratched, something rubbed in and a more or less painful sore has resulted. There is no operation so simple and so safe as vaccination when properly performed and cared for. There is no simple operation in which such serious results follow carelessness and ignorance—even unto death itself, either as a direct result through poisoning of the vaccination sore or from smallpox through failure to secure a successful protective vaccination.



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IT is to be understood that the vaccination herein referred to is that indicated in the Second Article of the VACCINATION CREED, to wit: that made "on a clean arm with pure lymph and kept perfectly clean and unbroken afterwards."

Each one of these points is essential to a protective vaccination and to freedom from serious soreness: The utmost attainable cleanliness; absolute purity of the vaccine lymph; an unbroken surface, by which latter all danger of contamination from external sources—the atmosphere, clothing, soiled hands, etc., is prevented.

To be more specific on these points: The arm should be first thoroughly washed with soap and water and the site of the operation then wiped with alcohol. After the vaccine spot has dried, pin a clean soft handkerchief or a piece of clean soft muslin to the shoulder-seam of the undershirt so as to hang in loose folds over the spot and prevent the sleeve from rubbing it. This must be changed for a clean one every day until the scab comes off and the surface is healed. The vesicle and resulting scab must not be broken or injured in any way and the arm and its coverings must be kept scrupulously clean from the time of the vaccination until it is well.

Because experience has shown that cleanliness and the protection of the surface are best secured by the above method, the DEPARTMENT advises against the use of "shields," bandages, plasters or other dressings; but if these are used—as they are by many physicians—they should only be applied as directed by the physician himself, and with the utmost regard to cleanliness.

IT must be repeated that the greatest care should be taken to prevent any breaking of the surface from the time when the scarified spot has dried until the scab drops off naturally. The unbroken surface is Nature's own "shield" against the access of disease germs. Do not scratch or rub, and do not handle the arm or change the handkerchief (or other dressing, if any) with dirty hands.

After a vaccination is made with pure lymph on a clean arm, the important points are to secure and maintain thorough cleanliness of the site of vaccination and to prevent any injury of the surface or breaking of the vesicle.

There can be no infection of any kind or severe inflammatory action if these precautions are observed.

The vaccination thus indicated will—if the person be susceptible to smallpox at the time—always “take” and always leave the characteristic or typical scar which, as stated in the Third Article of the VACCINATION CREED, is the permanent and only conclusive evidence of a successful and thoroughly protective vaccination.

WITH some persons one vaccination may be protective against smallpox for a lifetime; two vaccinations—one in infancy, another when about 15 years of age—protect most people for life; in comparatively few will vaccination “take” a third time.

The protection of vaccination against smallpox may be positively determined for each individual by repeating the operation from time to time. If the vaccination is still protective, a revaccination will not “take.” If it does “take,” it is proof positive that the person could have contracted smallpox if exposed to its contagion.

The rule is—REPEAT VACCINATION UNTIL THE SUSCEPTIBILITY TO VACCINE IS EXHAUSTED. When this is done it is impossible to contract smallpox. This is the protection given the employes of the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH who handle and nurse smallpox patients and bury the dead from the disease, and in no instance, among the hundreds so employed, has any one of them ever contracted smallpox.

THE vaccine lymph used by the Chicago DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH is always tested as to its purity and efficacy before it is distributed. The old-time suppurating sore arms, inflamed glands and other evidences of infection never follow the use of this lymph when the operation is performed and cared for in the manner herein advised.

During its six years of use by competent vaccinators it has been demonstrated to cause no serious amount of discomfort, pain or soreness. Vaccination is thus no longer to be feared, but rather sought for as the only SAFE, positively HARMLESS and absolutely CERTAIN safeguard against a loathsome pestilence.

Chicago, December 1901.

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P 1756

A VACCINATION CREED.

*We, the Undernamed, hereby publicly Profess our firm Belief—
based upon positive Knowledge, gained through Years of
personal Experience and Study of Smallpox and Vacci-
nation —*

FIRST. That true Vaccination — repeated until it no longer “takes”—ALWAYS prevents smallpox. NOTHING ELSE DOES.

SECOND. That true Vaccination — that is, vaccination properly done on a CLEAN arm with PURE lymph and kept perfectly CLEAN and UNBROKEN afterwards — never did and NEVER WILL make a serious sore.

THIRD. That such a Vaccination leaves a characteristic scar, unlike that from any other cause, which is recognizable during life and is the ONLY conclusive evidence of a Successful Vaccination.

FOURTH. That no untoward results ever follow such Vaccination; on the other hand, thousands of lives are annually sacrificed through its neglect — a neglect begotten of LACK OF KNOWLEDGE.

ARTHUR R. REYNOLDS, M. D.,

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